



Housing Affordability, Poverty, and Evidence: What Should We Do?

Michael Lens, UCLA

Wednesday, April 8th

12:00 - 1:00pm

In light of the community concerns regarding COVID-19, this talk will be given as a webinar. The link will be provided on Tuesday, April 7th to those that have registered by 5:00 pm on Monday, April 6th at uccs.ucdavis.edu.

Rent burdens have risen in U.S. cities for several decades, to the point that we can now credibly call this a housing affordability crisis. California's cities have always been more rent burdened than most, bringing an unparalleled severity to the crisis in this state. Given a crisis this long in the making, research suggests that multiple strategies are vital to making housing more affordable, particularly for our most vulnerable renters. Professor Lens will discuss the research on housing supply and zoning, rent control, and housing subsidies, among other potential solutions to the housing crisis.



Michael Lens is Associate Professor of Urban Planning and Public Policy, and Associate Faculty Director of the Lewis Center for Regional Policy Studies. Professor Lens's research and teaching explore the potential of public policy to address housing market inequities that lead to negative outcomes for low-income families and communities of color. This research involves housing interventions such as subsidies, tenant protections, and production. Professor Lens regularly publishes this work in leading academic journals and his research has won awards from the Journal of the American Planning Association and Housing Policy Debate.

In ongoing research, Professor Lens is studying the neighborhood context of eviction, the role of charter schools in neighborhood change, and is engaged in multiple projects (with Mike Manville and Paavo Monkkonen) concerning housing supply in California. Lens is also working on a book project that examines fifty years of neighborhood change in Black neighborhoods following the 1968 Fair Housing Act.

Professor Lens's research has received funding from the MacArthur Foundation, the Arnold Foundation, and the Turner Center for Housing Innovation, among other sources.

Professor Lens teaches courses on quantitative analysis, poverty and inequality, community development, housing policy, and research methods.